

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03944 241523Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-02 SY-05 HA-05 COME-00  
ACDA-12 USSS-00 SVC-00 /076 W  
-----096397 241536Z /64

O R 241430Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7561  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3944

FOR ARA/DAS- SHELTON AND ARA/CEN-WELTER

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU, PN, VE  
SUBJECT: AMB MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ON FSLN ATTACK

REFS: (A) MANAGUA 3942, (B) MANAGUA 3924

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH TELEPHONIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT, THE AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, CALLED ON PRESIDENT SOMOZA AT 8P.M. AUGUST 23 TO REQUEST DETAILS ON THE FSLN OCCUPATION OF THE NATIONAL PALACE. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT AT 9:00 A.M. LOCAL THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, THE ESTIMATED FORTY (40) TERRORISTS PLUS AROUND FIFTY (50) ALLEGED POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD LEAVE MANAGUA AIRPORT FOR PANAMA AND CARACAS. VENEZUELA WAS SENDING A PLANE TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION.

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2. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION 'S QUESTION, SOMOZA SAID THAT THERE WERE SEVEN (7) DEAD, ALL OF WHICH WERE GN PERSONNEL AND THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF ONE OTHER, PROBABLY A CIVILIAN.

3. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE SANDINISTAS DID NOT DEMAND TO TAKE HOSTAGES WITH THEM EXCEPT FOR A MEDICAL DOCTOR TO TEND TO

ONE OF THEIR WOUNDED. HE SAID THE FSLN TERRORISTS HAD COME DOWN IN THEIR DEMANDS AND FINALLY ACCEPTED GON OFFER OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$500,000.00) DOLLARS. HE NOTED THAT THE GON HAD PAID \$1 MILLION RANSOM IN THE NORORIOUS 1974 KIDNAPPING.

4. SOMOZA THEN PROVIDED AMBASSADOR WITH COPIES OF DOCUMENTATION INCLUDING HAND-WRITTEN NOTES FROM THE TERRORISTS AS WELL AS COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOTH SIDES DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WE WILL TRANSMIT AND COMMENT UPON SEPARATELY.

5. SOMOZA SAID THAT THIS TERRORIST ACT WAS THE MOST SERIOUS MISTAKE THE SANDINISTAS HAD EVEN MADE. THEIR OCCUPATION OF THE NATIONAL PALACE AND THEIR IMPRISONMENT OF HUNDREDS OF NICARAGUANS OF ALL CLASSES WOULD SERVE TO REDUCE THEIR PUBLIC SUPPORT RATHER THAN INCREASE IT. ALSO, HE SAID, IT WOULD SERVE TO FRIGHTEN THE BUSINESS-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WHICH WOULD HOPEFULLY ENCOURAGE THEM TO MOVE TOWARDS POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. HE THANKED THE USG FOR THE PRESS STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ACTIONS.

6. AS AMB WAS LEAVING, THE PRESIDENT INFORMED HIM THAT MDN LEADER ROBELO HAD BEEN JAILED. AS WE HAD ALREADY LEFT PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AND OTHER WERE APPROACHING, AMB DIDNOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION SOMOZA ON THIS. WE LEARNED LATER, HOWEVER, THAT ROBELO IS SUSPECTED OF BEING ONE OF FOUR MEN IN A MERCEDES WHICH "LED" THE SANDINISTA GUERRILLAS TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE NATIONAL PALACE.  
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7. COMMENT: SOMOZA SEEMED MUCH MORE RELAXED THAN THE PREVIOUS NIGHT, ALTHOUGH HE LOOKED TIRED AND DRAWN, HAVING HAD ONLY TWO HOURS SLEEP THE NIGHT BEFORE. NEVERTHELESS, HE APPEARED CONFIDENT AND PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE AFFAIR.  
SOLAUN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TERRORISTS, HOSTAGES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 MANAGUA 3942, 78 MANAGUA 3924  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMB MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ON FSLN ATTACK  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, NU, PN, VE, US, (SAMOZA DEBAYLE, ANASTACIO), (SOLAUN, MAURICIO)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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